



SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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US-Sudan relations

- During a satellite conference on Friday, Sudan's President Omar Al-Bashir told attendees at the Nation of Islam's national convention in Detroit that the United States is exaggerating troubles in Darfur so it can control the country as it has in Iraq. Al-Bashir called on the media and the American public to learn the truth about Sudan. Al-Bashir reiterated his rejection of the deployment of UN peacekeepers to Sudan arguing that the AU force is "doing fantastically well" and that UN Security Council Resolution 1706 would put "Sudan under the full mandate of foreign countries" and give U.N. troops "the same position as coalition forces in Iraq." (AP, *Sudan Vision*)

- Sudanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Ali Al-Saddig belittled the impact of U.S. threats to try to change Sudan's foreign policy. In a press statement issued yesterday, Al-Saddig affirmed Sudan's firm adherence to its foreign policy. "We do not care about American threats to us and threats of Plan B. The Americans know us well," he said. (*Al-Ayaam*)

- Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie stated yesterday that the U.S. is encouraging opponents of the Darfur Peace Agreement not to cooperate, which will worsen the situation in Darfur and pave the way for foreign intervention. Nafie further added that the USG has promised to take Sudan's name off the list of countries supporting terrorism after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and has not fulfilled this promise yet. (*Al-Hayat*)

Darfur

- The International Red Cross refused to testify in a Darfur war crimes trial because of the group's long-standing pledge of neutrality, its president said on

Friday. The IRC has the largest presence of any aid group in Darfur, but the organization affirmed that it would never make public the observations of its nearly 2,000 Sudanese and international staff working in the country. (*Sudan Tribune*)

Hamas in Khartoum

- Yesterday, President Al-Bashir received the Chairman of the Palestinian Hamas Political Bureau Khalid Mishal, who briefed Al-Bashir on the internal situation in Palestine and the outcome of the Mecca meetings. Mishal also discussed the lifting of the siege imposed on Palestinians. President Al-Bashir affirmed Sudan's support for a regional and international position that recognizes the recent decision reached in Mecca to form a Palestinian government of national unity. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam, Al-Sahafa, et al*)

Meningitis toll

- Most dailies reported that there have been 172 fatalities due to the current meningitis outbreak in South Sudan. (*Al-Ayaam*)

Black History Month in the news

- On Saturday, Al-Sahafa Forum hosted a discussion on the role of the African-American press in the U.S. in celebration of Black History Month. PAO Joel Maybury was the guest speaker at the event, which attracted three dozen journalists. (*Al-Sahafa*)

- On Saturday night, *Radio Mango*, a trendy FM station in Khartoum, broadcast the second of a two-part Black History Month tribute to jazz artists and U.S. Civil Rights heroes.

The Sudan Morning News is compiled as a service by the Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy, Khartoum, Sudan. It presents a partial survey of the current Sudanese press and international reporting about Sudan. Material reported here does not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Government.